

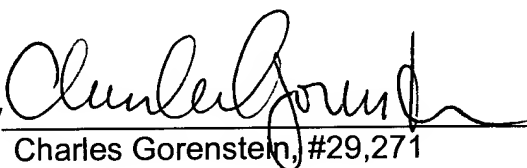
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully elect Group II, including claims 1-5, 9-15, 22-29 without traverse. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application for the non-elected claims at a later stage, depending on the results of examination of the elected claims. As an early indication of the allowability of each of claims 1-31 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert W. Downs (Reg. No. 48,222) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 
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